

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A boot for a ski or in-line roller skate, the boot having a sole with a heel portion and a front portion, the sole being connected to a flexible upper, wherein the sole has a first rigid part which extends forward from said heel portion over about one half of the length of the sole,

wherein the sole has a flexible portion which extends from the front portion rearward to the first rigid part so as to allow the foot to flex during walking, and

wherein the first rigid part includes an interlocking surface means which interlocks with a binding of an alpine ski or in-line roller skate thus firmly fixing the first rigid part against flexing with respect to the flexible portion; and

wherein a second rigid part extends upward from said first rigid part and encloses a heel of the wearer.

2. (Previously Presented) The ski boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the interlocking surface means allows for an automatic release binding to be coupled therewith.

Claims 3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The boot as claimed in claim [[3]] 1, wherein the interlocking surface means has at least one cutout which engages the alpine ski or skate binding.

Claims 6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the interlocking surface means has a profiled part of standard length which engages a ski or skate binding irrespective of the boot size.

9. (Previously Presented) The boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first rigid part comprises at least part of the interlocking surface.

Claims 10-11. (Canceled)